

29. DIPLOCYCLOS (Endlicher) T. Post & Kuntze, Lex. Gen. Phan. 178. 1903 [*“Diplocyclus”*].

毒瓜属 du gua shu

Lu Anmin (路安民 Lu An-ming); Charles Jeffrey

Bryonia [unranked] *Diplocyclos* Endlicher, Prodr. Fl. Norfolk. 68. 1833.

Herbs, scandent. Tendrils 2-fid. Leaf blade palmately 5-lobed. Plants monoecious. Flowers small, fasciculate, often male and female flowers together in axils. Male flowers: calyx tube broadly campanulate; segments short; corolla broadly campanulate; segments ovate; stamens 3, free, inserted on calyx tube; filaments short; anthers ovoid, one 1-celled, other 2-celled; anther cells linear, slightly flexuous. Female flowers: calyx and corolla as in male flowers; staminodes 3; ovary globose or ovoid, with 3 placentas; ovules few, horizontal; style slender; stigmas 3, 2-lobed. Fruit baccate, globose or ovoid. Seeds strongly margined, surfaces slightly scrobiculate at middle.

Four species: tropical Africa, Asia, Australia; one species in China.

1. *Diplocyclos palmatus* (Linnaeus) C. Jeffrey, Kew Bull. 15: 352. 1962.

毒瓜 du gua

Bryonia palmata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 1012. 1753; *B. affinis* Endlicher; *Bryonopsis affinis* (Endlicher) Cogniaux; *B. laciniosa* (Linnaeus) Naudin var. *erythrocarpa* Naudin; *B. laciniosa* var. *walkeri* Chakravarty; *Ilocania pedata* Merrill.

Root tuberous. Stems slender, glabrous. Tendrils glabrous. Petiole 4–6 cm, slightly puberulent; leaf blade broadly ovate, 8–12 × 8–12 cm, membranous, palmately 5-lobed; middle lobe oblong-lanceolate, 8–10 × 2–3.5 cm, apex acuminate or obtuse; lateral lobes short, lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate, both surfaces subglabrous, sinus rounded. Male and female flowers usually fasciculate in same axil. Male flowers: pedicel slender, 5–15 mm; calyx tube ca. 2 × 5–6 mm; segments subulate, 0.5–1 mm; corolla green-yellow, ca. 7 mm in diam.; segments ovate, ca. 2 × 0.5–1 mm; stamens 3; filaments 1–1.5 mm; anthers ovoid, ca. 2 mm; anther cells reflexed. Female flowers: calyx and corolla as in male flowers; ovary ovoid, smooth. Fruit yellow-green to red, narrowly white striped, globose, indehiscent, 14–18 mm in diam., smooth. Seeds few, brown, ovate, ca. 5 × 3 mm. Fl. Mar–Aug, fr. Sep–Dec.

Forests, thickets; ca. 1000 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan [Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; tropical Africa, Australia].

The fruit and roots contain toxin.

Fl. China 19: 52. 2011.